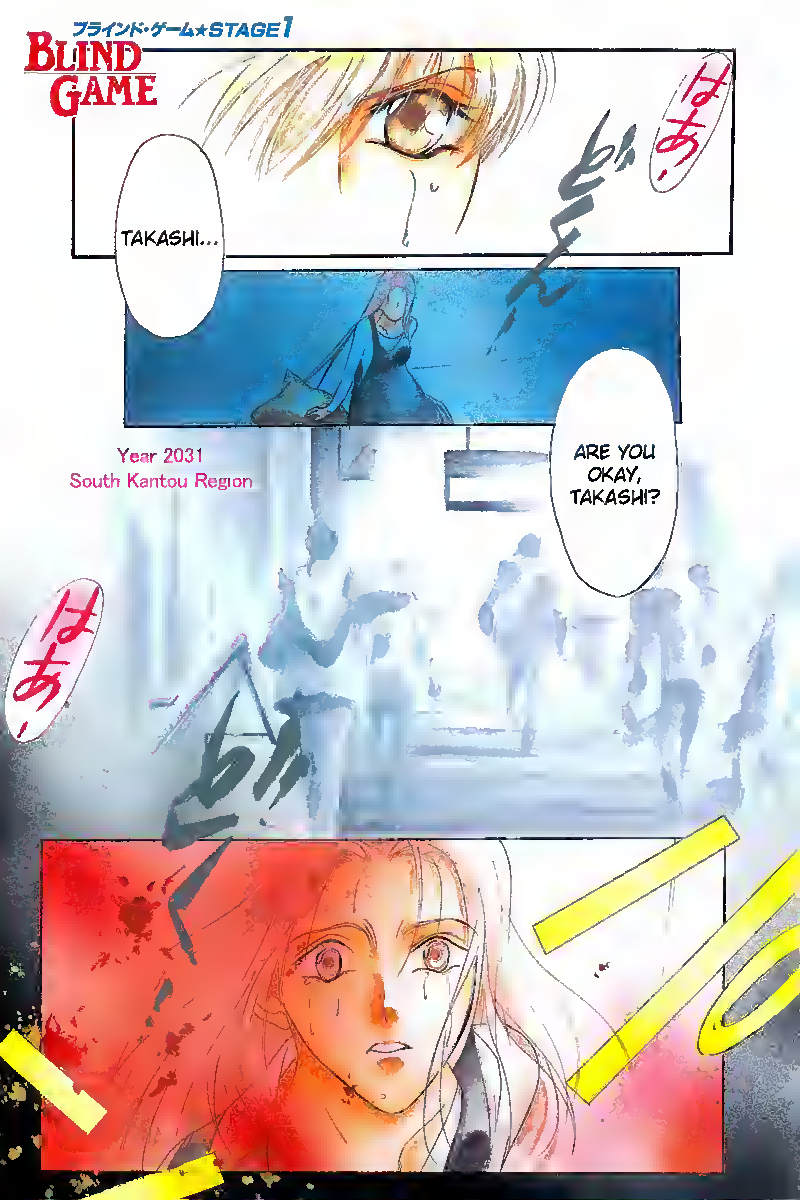
BLIND GAME


はあ、
TAKASHI...
Year 2031
South Kantou Region
ARE YOU OKAY, TAKASHI?
はあ、

BLIND GAME
ブラインド・ゲーム
STAGE 1

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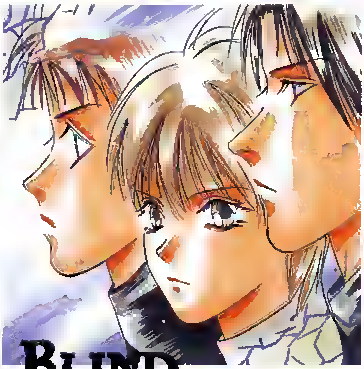

BLIND GAME STAGE 1 1

AFTERWORD 207

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TAKASHI...!

ズキッ
TAKASHI!
!!
ANEMIC?
AH, SORRY!
THIS SORT OF HAPPENS.

Year 2031, Spring...
AH,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YOU SHOULD FIND A SHADY PLACE WHERE HE CAN REST.
I was suffering from a weird dream.
It didn't matter if it was day or night.
The dreams would just happen Sometimes, there'd be a lot of them in just one day
THE HUMAN BODY CONTAINS 46 CHROMO-SOMES.
THEY EACH PAIR UP, CREATING 23 PAIRS

CHROMOSOMES ARE MADE FROM THE ELEMENT CALLED DNA.
EACH PAIR HAS TWO DIFFERENT STRANDS OF GENETIC MATERIAL ONE STRAND YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR MOTHER, THE OTHER, FROM YOUR FATHER
THE DNA IS MADE FROM UNITS CALLED NUCLEO-TIDES.
YOSHITO...
The person who helped you at the train station is a Junior named Shinya Niwa. Did you know he's the star of the Shooting club?
SHINYA NIWA...
THE GENETIC CODE WAS DECODED IN 2014.

THE DECODING WAS DELAYED FOR 9 YEARS DUE TO THE TOUTATIS OCCURRENCE.
...SO, THAT WOULD BE A BIT BEFORE THE TIME YOU GUYS WERE BORN...
TAKASHI!!
ARE YOU OKAY, GOTO?!
Again.

YEAH,
EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE I'VE HAD THE SAME DREAM.
DREAM?
YOU'RE STRANGE.
WERE YOU SLEEP-WALKING?
NO.
EVEN WHEN I'M AWAKE, I SEE THE DREAM.
I THINK IT'S CALLED, "DAY-DREAMING."
IN MY DREAM, THERE WAS A LADY...
...WHO HAS A BIG BELLY AND SHE RUNS AND RUNS AND THEN GETS SHOT BY GUNS.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO HORRIFYING.

DO YOU KNOW HER?
NO, BUT I SAW HER FACE CLEARLY.
I THINK IT'S MORE LIKE A MEMORY THAN A DREAM.
COULD IT BE...?
MAYBE YOU CAN SEE THE FUTURE OR MAYBE IT'S A MEMORY FROM YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE!
MY PREVIOUS LIFE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
IT'S A POSSIBILITY. AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE SUCH A STRANGE POWER.
IT MIGHT BE...
EXCUSE ME.
I'M SHINYA FROM CLASS 2-F.
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT MAY I HAVE SOME PAIN KILLERS?

IT'S NIWA -SEMPAI!
OH, MY GOOD-NESS!
WHAT HAPPENED? IT'S PRETTY SWOLLEN.
WELL, IT FEELS LIKE I RAN INTO SOME-THING.
THERE WAS A SHOTGUN COMPETITION IN THE AFTER-NOON.
OH! IT MIGHT HURT FROM THE RECOIL OF THE GUN...
FINE. I'LL GIVE YOU A PAIN-KILLER, BUT DON'T TAKE TOO MUCH!
OTHERWISE, YOU'LL HAVE LESS CONCEN-TRATION THAN USUAL.
TAKASHI?!

UM...
AH.
I'M SORRY! IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOUR SHOULDER...
TH-THIS MORNING, THANK YOU!
...AND THEN...

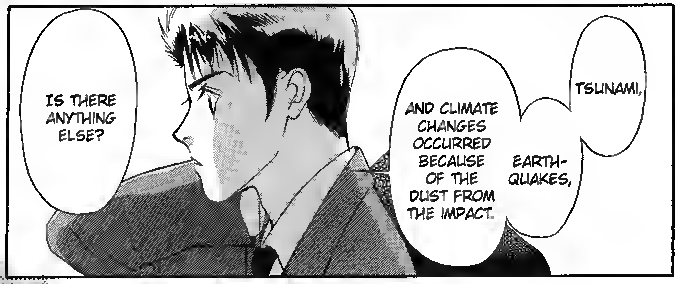
YOUR FORE-HEAD...
...CAN I TOUCH IT FOR A MINUTE?
?
HUH?!
MEDICINE IS NOT GOOD FOR YOU.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I...
...I'M SORRY, BUT I'M IN A HURRY.
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE PUSHED INTO SOME WEIRD RELIGION.
IT'S NOT A RELIGION!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
THE HUMAN BODY IS CAPABLE OF SELF-RECOVERY THAT GOES BEYOND ANY-THING THAT MEDICINE CAN DO
ANYWAY, CAN YOU GIVE ME 5 MINUTES?

I UNDER-STAND.

HUH?
I'M DONE.
?
HOW IS IT?
?
IT DOESN'T HURT...
WH-WHY?
はあ
I'M RELIEVED.
GOOD LUCK IN THE COMPETITION!

TAKASHI!
YOSHI-TO...
I DON'T THINK I CAN ATTEND THE AFTERNOON CLASS.
In the year 2004, late September, the asteroid Toutatis collided with Earth.
It was said to be scientifically impossible.
HUH? GEEZ. AFTER CLASS?
...but when the people noticed the oribtal had changed, they panicked.
The asteroid Toutatis had avoided America's nuclear missiles
THERE'S HOMEWORK!
WE'VE GOT TO WRITE A PAPER ABOUT THE CHANGE OF EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT DUE TO THE TOUTATIS OCCURRENCE. IT HAS TO BE 12000 WORDS.

After the collision, there was chaos
and collided with the entire Earth
It became a meteor with a diameter of 100 meters


IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
AND CLIMATE CHANGES OCCURRED BECAUSE OF THE DUST FROM THE IMPACT.
TSUNAMI,
EARTH-QUAKES,

MAP OF THE BIG IMPACT
the asteroid hit Japan
even though it was smaller than the others that had fallen to Earth
DESTROYED REGION
It was bad luck. The impact was tremendous
One year later...
MAYBE THERE WAS ACID RAIN?

DID YOU HEAR?
THERE'S A BUNCH OF KIDS MISSING. IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
I don't know much more about that time
because they're going to cut Modern History due to time restraints
Because of the confusion, Japan divided into 10 blocks, forming a confederation.
According to Mother, the Confederation then built an army
BRO!
HEY BRO, YOU WANT A GUN?
WOW, GUNS?!
YOU HAVE EVERY-THING!
TOKAREV, INGRAM, BERETTA, WALTER...

WHAT IS THIS?!
YOU HAVE TO BUY GUNS AT A GUN SHOP!
IT'LL EXPLODE AND YOUR ARM WILL GO WITH IT!
I WAS JUST LOOKING!
HE WAS GOING TO SELL IT TO YOU!
AND THEN YOU'D BE SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL IF YOU BROUGHT IT WITH YOU!
AH..
I REGRET NOT JOINING THE SHOOTING CLUB.
IT'S COOL!
THEY WALK AROUND CARRYING THEIR RIFLES...
YOU'RE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH KANTOU ATHLETIC CLUB!
You have a all-Japan record!

ヒュー
I KNOW, BUT I WANT MORE THAN JUST RUNNING AND JUMPING
WOW... THERE ARE MORE CATS THAN BEFORE.
MAYBE.
すりすり
ニャー
OK. HERE YOU GO, EAT!
ゴロ
HMPH. I'M IMPRESSED. THEY'RE ATTACHED TO YOU.

WHAT THE HELL?!
THEY AREN'T AFFECTIONATE TOWARDS ME AT ALL!
OF COURSE, THEY'RE WILD CATS.
SEE?
CATS ..
THEY FEEL GOOD IF YOU PET THEM.
IT'S A BASIC PART OF THE BRAIN,
HUMANS, DOGS, CATS, AND EVEN BUGS
HAVE THAT IN-STINCT.

I REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER. WHENEVER YOU PUT YOUR HANDS ON MY FOREHEAD,
I FELT RELAXED AND RECEIVED A GOOD SCORE IN ATHLETICS.
ALL OF MY RECORDS IN ATHLETICS WERE BECAUSE OF YOU.
THEY ARE NOT.
ALL I CAN DO IS PROVIDE A STIMULANT TO THE BRAIN.
I CAN'T MAKE YOU RUN WELL OR JUMP HIGH.
ヒクッ
ヒク
HUH?

I'M HOME!
KITTY...
WHAT'S IN HERE?
WHAT?
MOTHER!
HEY!

HELL NO, I DON'T CARE ABOUT SUCH A DUMB JOB!
DID YOU HAVE TROUBLE AT WORK?
WHY ARE YOU DRINKING RIGHT NOW?
STARTING TOMORROW, UNTIL MONDAY, I HAVE TO GO ON A BUSINESS TRIP.
I DON'T NEED TO WORK, IN ORDER TO HAVE A LIFE!
MOTHER IS RICH.
T/L note: She's referring to herself here
IT'S A CAT.
IT WAS AN ORPHAN AMONG THE WILD CATS.
HM? WHAT IS THAT?
OK, I'M COMPLETELY RELAXED NOW.

あガ
AHH
THE TOMCAT TOOK THE KITTY FROM SOMEWHERE INTO THE ALLEY.
IF I LEFT IT THERE, IT MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN EATEN.
STOP THAT! YOU'LL KILL IT!
THAT KITTY HAS HARD NAILS, AND A GOOD BONE STRUCTURE.
IS IT REALLY A CAT?
IT DIDN'T CRY.

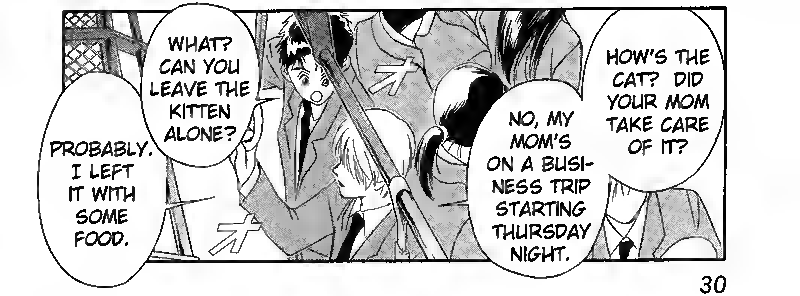
She was in Army Research
I don't know what kind of research she did or why she quit.
But now, she's a free-lance writer.
But I know
YOU'RE MEAN!
THE KITTEN COULDN'T CRY BECAUSE YOU FRIGHTENED IT!
OK, OK, OPEN YOUR MOUTH!
GOOD JOB, NICE KITTY!
what's unbelieveable is that she did it with some random dude and gave birth to me.
every month, she receives a lot of money.
I think it's from my father.
Human remains were discovered deep inside the mountains

IT'S UNSAFE!
It is highly probable, that after being killed, their bodies were deposited within the mountains
The bones of the victims also bear tooth marks
From DNA analysis, the remains were identified as the missing girls
NATURALLY IT'S GOING TO BE THE HOTBED OF CRIME.
OLD TOKYO WAS NEVER RECON-STRUCTED,
Due to the incidents in the South Kantou Region police are...
YEP.
I'LL BE BACK AROUND THE AFTERNOON TO GET READY.
WE HAVE AN APPOINT-MENT WITH SOME PEOPLE.
ANYWAY, DON'T MAKE PLANS FOR MONDAY NIGHT.
HUH? ME TOO?
BUT ISN'T THAT PLACE CONTROLLED BY THE ARMY?
WHY AREN'T THEY GOING TO REBUILD IT?

OKAY, JUST A LITTLE MILK. OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
WHAT?!
!!

ぽん。
HEY, TAKASHI!
MORN-ING!
DID YOU HAVE FUN DURING THE 3-DAY WEEK-END?
ANY DREAMS?

YEAH, I'M OK.
WOW! YOU HAVE A LOT OF SCARS ON YOUR HAND!


HOW'S THE CAT? DID YOUR MOM TAKE CARE OF IT?
NO, MY MOM'S ON A BUSI-NESS TRIP STARTING THURSDAY NIGHT.
WHAT? CAN YOU LEAVE THE KITTEN ALONE?
PROBABLY. I LEFT IT WITH SOME FOOD.

FOOD?
THE KITTEN CAN EAT FOOD ALREADY?!
THIS MORNING, IT HAD TEETH.
TEETH?
I THOUGHT IT WAS YOUNGER.
IT CAN EAT MEAT.
I FED IT SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS.
BUT THE KITTY CAN ONLY EAT RAW MEAT.
I SEE.
ANYWAY, DID YOU WATCH THE NEWS THIS MORNING?
SHINYA GOT FIRST PLACE AT THE COMPE-TITION!
HE WAS THE YOUNGEST ATHLETE TO EVER RECEIVE THE AWARD!
AH? THAT TIME?!
HE'S SO COOL!
WHAT DO YOU THINK HIS HIGHEST ARCADE SCORE IS? I BET HE'S REALLY GOOD AT C.T.D!
I WONDER, HOW MANY TARGETS CAN HE HIT?

NOTE: C.T.D = CHASE THE DRAGON

I GUESS IT'S COOL.
KITTY?
!!

IT'S ME AT!
SINCE I STEPPED ON IT THAT MEANS...
...THE KITTEN DIDN'T EAT IT
HEY,
WHAT ARE YOU CHEWING ON?
HEY...

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ビチャ
!!
ビチャ
!
ビチャ

ゴロ
ガタン
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BITE OFF MY HAND!

What kind of bone is that...?
TABANE!
...THE KITTEN RAN AWAY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?
IT WAS... AN ACCIDENT.
OH!
COME OVER HERE, NIWA!

THIS IS NIWA, HE'S MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND HE'S IN THE ARMY.
THIS IS HIS SON...
AH!!
IT'S YOU!
THEY GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL.
IT'S NO WONDER WHY THEY KNOW EACH OTHER.

MOM...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
NOT REALLY.
HE'S POPULAR WITH THE GUYS.
TAKASHI LOOKS SO CUTE!
I BET HE'S REALLY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS.
HEY!
DON'T TELL HIM THAT..
TABANE WAS POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS. IT STARTED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND LASTED UNTIL COLLEGE!
WHAT?!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THAT PROBLEM YOUR MOTHER HAD!
CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING FIRST PLACE AT THE COMPETITION.
UM, NIWA-SEMPAI...

MY FRIEND AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU...
..AND WE WERE WONDERING... HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SCORE ON C.T.D.?
C.T.D.? WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A SHOOT-ING GAME
IT'S A 3-D ATTRAC-TION AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK.
GAME!
THOSE THINGS ARE STILL POPULAR?
IM-PRESSIVE ISN'T IT?
THE WORLD IS FINALLY GOING BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE THE TOUTATIS INCIDENT AND AA2005.
LET'S GO.

EH?
LET'S PLAY THE GAME.
RIGHT NOW?!
FATHER, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THE TWO OF YOU HAVE A DRINK?
I'LL PLAY THE GAME AND THEN GO HOME.
SEE YOU LATER!
?
CTD
YOU USE THIS TO AIM.

UM...
...IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME PLAYING IT?
I SEE.
...AND YOU USE THIS TRIGGER TO SHOOT.
YEAH.
I'VE ONLY USED REAL GUNS.
I'M ALSO USED TO DRIVING REAL CARS AND SMALL PLANES.
RE-REALLY?
YOU CAN DRIVE?!
I HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE
BUT I'M STILL PRACTICING TO GET A PILOT'S LICENSE

AH!
THAT'S THE BALL OF LIGHT...
THAT'S THE ONE! THAT'S IT!
YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT WITH THIS AT THE ENEMY
WELL, WHAT NOW?
YOU'RE...
...GOING TO SHOOT.
I SEE.

ONCE HE HEARD THE WORD, "GAME", HE WANTED TO PLAY.
HE LOOKS MATURE, BUT HE'S STILL A KID.
I SEE.
HE'S LEARNING HOW TO PILOT A SMALL PLANE RIGHT NOW.
MAYBE IN THE FUTURE HE'LL BECOME A COMBAT PILOT.
...HE JUST LIKES THE REAL THING.
HE'S ONLY BEEN INTERESTED IN REAL GUNS AND CARS SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE KID.
NO,
I DON'T THINK HE WAS INTER-ESTED IN THE GAME...
CTU
GAME OVER
IT'S JUST THAT
HE LEFT US TO CONDUCT OUR OWN BUSINESS.

I DON'T CARE.
I'VE GOT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE GAME.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T LIKE THIS GAME THAT MUCH.
I EXPECTED TO FINISH EARLY...
EH...
THAT WAS UNEXPECTED! IT'S ALREADY OVER.
WHAT?
LET'S PLAY AGAIN.
15 YEARS?
オオ
ガ

15 YEARS AGO, WE PROMISED TO BRING OUR KIDS TOGETHER.
THERE WERE 108 PEOPLE AT FIRST.
HOW MANY ARE LEFT?
8 PEOPLE.
8 PEOPLE...?
THERE WAS A 50% POSITIVE IMPLANTATION.
IN THE 15TH WEEK OF PREGNANCY, HOWEVER, 70% MISCARRIED.

1 IN 8 SUBJECTS HAD THE KLIENFLETER SYNDROME.
RIGHT NOW, THERE AREN'T ANY COMPLI-CATIONS.
カリン
WE WERE SAFE UNTIL THE CHANGES EMERGED DUE TO THE SECONDARY GENDER CHARACTERISTICS.
MY SON'S ALRIGHT AT THE MOMENT.
WE USED HEALTHY MATERIALS, SO EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS ABOVE AVERAGE.
MY SON IS HEALTHY AS WELL,
BUT HE IS A LITTLE WEAK.

ヒュッ
HEY!
LET ME BORROW YOUR GUN.
ヒュ
ANYWAY, AS EXPECTED,
HE RESEMBLES YOU A LITTLE.
ナオ
ナオ

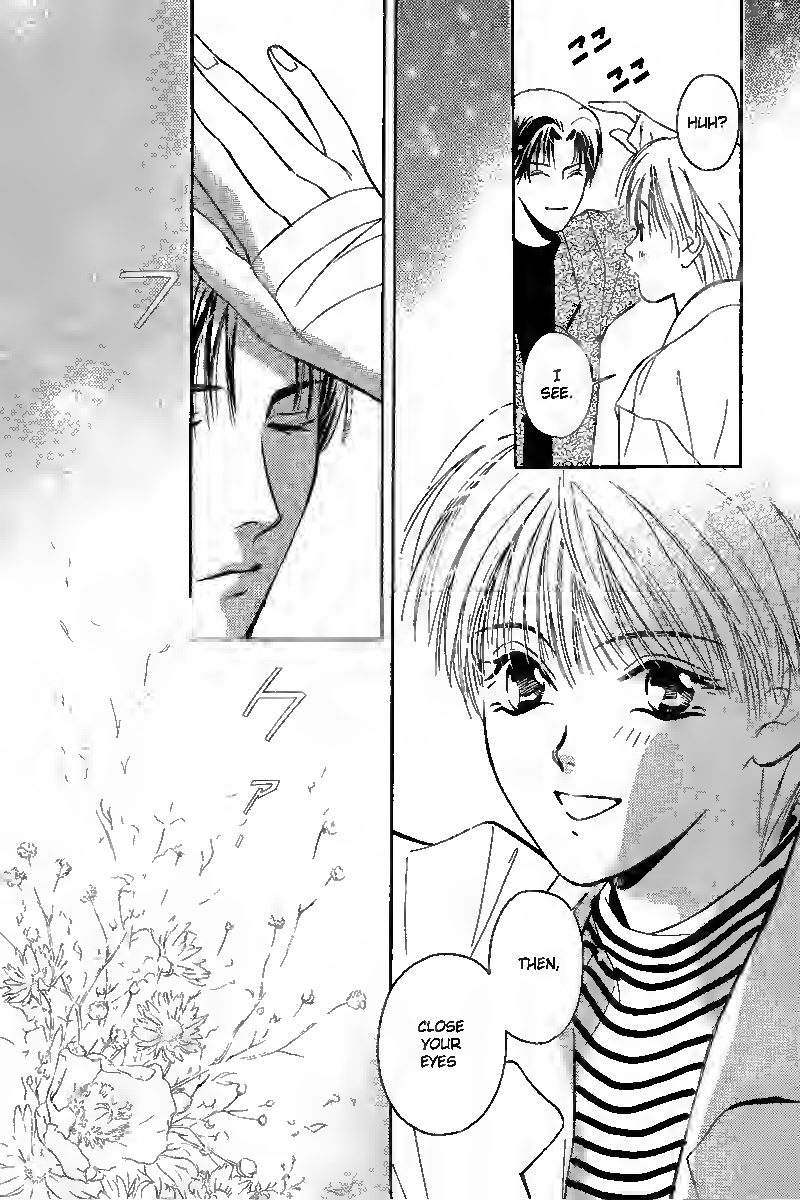
HE IS, HOWEVER, MORE KIND THAN YOU!
HAHAHA!
I'M SORRY THAT I'M A TIGER BORN TO LOOK LIKE A RABBIT!
HIS ABILITY IS TO PUT SOME ENERGY INTO HIS HAND AND...
...IN SHORT, IT'S LIKE ACUPUNC-TURE.
ACU-PUNC-TURE?
YOU...
...IF I TOUCH YOU, YOU'LL RELAX.
WHAT?
I KNOW.
PEOPLE SAY, "I KEEP MY GUARD UP."
WHEN THEY DO, THEY FEEL AN ATMOSPHERE OF MENACE. IF PEOPLE SAT IN FRONT OF THEM, THEY'D SHOOT THEM.

IF I TOUCH SOMEBODY AND THEY GET TENSE, THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT EVEN IF THEY WANT TO.
Wwhat's that mean
I BROUGHT HIM UP TO BE GENTLE.
WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT HIM, THEIR BRAIN WAVES BECOME ALPHA WAVES AND THEY FEEL SERENE.
SO FAR, HE'S GROWN UP LIKE THAT.
WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AT HIM, THEIR EYES BECOME SOFT.
The trouble is that it also gets to man's hypothalamus.
(The hypothalamus controls body temperature, hunger, thirst, fatigue, and anger.)
GOTO?
HEY TAKASHI!
OPEN YOUR EYES!

スコアが表示されてるんスね。

THAT WAS GREAT!
I WANT TO LET YOSHITO SEE IT.
I CAN'T HIT THAT BALL OF LIGHT.
IT WAS TOO FAST FOR ME,
SO I COULDN'T SEE THE LINES.
WHAT?
IT WAS A MONSTER, AND THEY HAVE AN 'X' MARK ON THEIR BODY.
THAT WAS NOT A BALL OF LIGHT.
YOU HAVE TO HIT THE 'X' MARK IN ORDER TO KILL THEM.
WHAT?!

THEY ROTATE, SO IT'S HARD TO TELL.
THE HARDEST IS THE ONE THAT ROTATES EVERYWHERE IN ORDER TO CHANGE DIRECTION. HE HAS THE 'X' MARK BETWEEN HIS FEET.
あく!!
THE FIRST TIME IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TIME THE ROTATION AND SHOTS.
BUT WHEN I GOT USED TO IT, I COULD READ THEIR MOVEMENTS.
because it's repetitive
HEY,
COULD YOU DO THAT THING, ONE MORE TIME?
THE MACHINE RELIED ON LOTS OF MOVEMENT, BUT IT WAS AN ILLUSION
とけい
IF YOU'RE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS, YOU'LL BE OKAY


HUH?
I SEE.
THEN,
CLOSE YOUR EYES

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